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LETTER DATED 14 MARCH 2000 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to inform you as follows:

1. At 1700 hours on 11 February 2000 a Kuwaiti patrol intercepted a fishing launch belonging to Iraqi citizen Taha Hafiz 'Abbas Juma'ah, claiming that it was in Kuwaiti waters. On board the vessel were Sa'id Isma'il Bashir, Riyad Isma'il Bashir, 'Adnan Kan'an, 'Aziz Mohammed Nasir, 'Abdal Amir Abdullah and Naji Falih, who were fishing at the time in the territorial waters in the area of Buoy No. 7 near Mina al-Amiq. The members of the patrol proceeded to attack the men and seize both their identity papers and the vessel's papers and certificate of inspection, which they threw into the sea.

2. At 0100 hours on 14 February 2000 a Kuwaiti patrol boat intercepted a fishing launch belonging to Iraqi citizen Taha 'Adnan Hassan, claiming that the vessel, which was fishing in the vicinity of Mina al-Amiq, was in Kuwaiti waters. The patrol tried to force the vessel to lower its flag, but the owner refused. The Kuwaiti patrol then seized the identity papers of the seven-man crew consisting of Talah Taha 'Adnan, 'Issam Yunis, Hamid Hashim Mahmud, Shakir Abdullah, Rashid 'Ashur, 'Ali Hussayn and Abdullah Taha, together with the vessel's papers and certificate of inspection.

I request that you intervene with Kuwait to bring a halt to these unjustified acts of provocation and aggression by Kuwaiti patrols which, as violations of the Charter of the United Nations and international law, pose a threat to the sovereignty and security of Iraq.

I also affirm the right of the Republic of Iraq, in accordance with the principle of international responsibility, to seek compensation for the damage inflicted on it and on its people and their property by these same acts of aggression.

I should be grateful if you would have this letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative